

REMARKS

The courtesy of Examiner Huson in granting a telephone interview on November 10, 2005 is sincerely appreciated. During the interview, the amended claims and the reasons presented herein for their allowance were discussed. No agreement was reached as to the allowance of any of the claims. Examiner Huson did state, however, that the amendment of Claims 4 and 15 would appear to overcome the rejection thereof under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Neter et al.

Claims 1 and 12 are amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the feature of removing at least a portion of the closed end of the molded product after the molded product has been removed from the core mold part.

Claims 3, 4, 14 and 15 are amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the feature of the inner core of the core mold part being movable relative to the generally cylindrical portion of the core mold part that forms at least an inside segment of the substantially tubular section of the product.

Claims 5-11 are canceled in view of the election pursuant to the restriction requirement. The subject matter of Claims 5-11 is claimed in co-pending divisional application No. 11/140,818.

The Summary of the Invention portion of the Specification is amended to be consistent with the scope of the amended independent claims.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §102

The rejection of Claims 4 and 15 under 35 USC 102(B) as being anticipated by Neter et al. is respectfully traversed because Neter et al.'s core mold part 18 does not include an inner core that is movable relative to the portion of the core mold part 18 that forms at least an inside segment of the substantially tubular section of Neter et al.'s product 11. Accordingly, the Neter et al. apparatus is incapable of performing steps (e) and (f) of Claim 4, which are illustrated in FIGS. 4 to 6 of the present application.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §103

The rejection of Claims 1-2 and 12-13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buhler et al. in view of Dutt is respectfully traversed for the following reasons:

It would not have been obvious to inject compressed air during Buhler's ejection process in order to help remove the molded product from the core mold part because in Buhler's process the closed end of the molded product is removed by the cutting collar 26 before the stripping plate 38 begins removing the molded product from the core mold part. See Buhler et al. at column 4, lines 15-33. Since Buhler's product no longer had a closed end when the product removal step commenced, there would not have been any motivation to inject compressed air into the molded product to help remove the product from the core mold part.

Even if compressed air were to be injected to help remove Buhler's molded product from the core mold part, adding such an air injection step would not result in the invention of Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 because the air injection would not have been into the closed end of the molded product, as required by independent Claims 1 and 12, inasmuch as Buhler's product no longer has a closed end when the product removal step commences.

The rejection of Claims 3 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buhler et al. in view of Dutt and Neter et al. is respectfully traversed for the following reasons:

Claims 3 and 14 are patentable for at least the same reasons as presented above for traversing the rejection of Claims 1 and 12, upon which Claims 3 and 14 respectively depend.

Claims 3 and 14 are also patentable over the art of record because Neter et al.'s core mold part 18 does not include an inner core that is movable relative to the portion of the core mold part 18 that forms at least an inside segment of the substantially tubular section of Neter et al.'s product 11. Accordingly, the Neter et al. apparatus is incapable of performing steps (e) and (f) of Claim 4, which are illustrated in FIGS. 4 to 6 of the present application.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-4 and 12-15 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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